

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024866

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P - MR. SISCO

S/S - J LHOGANSON

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: FAHMY'S COMMENTS ON MESSAGE TO SADAT RE RABIN
VISIT

REF: CAIRO 1250

1. FAHMY'S REACTION AS REPORTED REFTEL WAS PROBABLY PRE-
DICTABLE, AND YOU DID GOOD JOB OF RESPONDING TO HIS COM-
PLAINTS. AT NEXT OPPORTUNITY, YOU SHOULD TELL ISMAIL THAT
I READ CAREFULLY YOUR REPORT OF THE CONVERSATION AND ASKED
YOU TO PASS ON TO HIM THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

A. I CAN UNDERSTAND ISMAIL'S FRUSTRATION THAT MATTERS ARE
NOT MOVING MORE RAPIDLY. THE FACT THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT
RABIN HAS DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES DOES NOT DIMINISH IN ANY
WAY OUR AWARENESS OF PROBLEMS PRESENT SITUATION POSES FOR
PRESIDENT SADAT. WE MUST TAKE BOTH THESE REALITIES INTO
ACCOUNT, AND FACT THAT WE SEEK TO DO SO RESULTS IN OUR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 024866

RECEIVING CRITICISM FROM BOTH SIDES AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

B. WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH SIMILAR PERIODS BEFORE TOGETHER AND HAVE IN THE END BEEN ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE OVER THE LONG RUN SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. HOWEVER FAR THERE MAY YET BE TO GO, THERE WOULD BE MUCH

FURTHER TO GO IN THE ABSENCE OF THE GROUNDWORK -- POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL AS GEOGRAPHIC -- THAT HAS BEEN LAID IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. THAT GROUNDWORK INCLUDES PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING BROADER RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS.

C. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE A UNIQUE ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING THE PARTIES WORK TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, AND WE INTEND TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN CARRYING OUT THAT ROLE. WE MUST BE THE JUDGE, HOWEVER, OF HOW AND AT WHAT PACE IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO DO SO WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RETAINING OUR ABILITY TO ACT EFFECTIVELY. IT WOULD BE EASY FOR US TO TAKE DRAMATIC STEPS WHICH WOULD EARN IMMEDIATE CREDIT IN THE ARAB WORLD BUT UNDERMINE OUR CAPACITY TO DELIVER WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS.

D. I URGE ISMAIL TO SEE OUR ACTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT HAS BEEN A STRENUOUS AND SUSTAINED EFFORT ON OUR PART OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT DIFFICULTIES AND INEVITABLE DISAPPOINTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, BUT THE DIRECTION HAS BEEN CLEAR AND CONSISTENT AND OUR DETERMINATION REMAINS UNDIMINISHED. KISSINGER

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